

International Intelligence

German Critic of Sharon Framed Up

Israeli police on May 20 interrogated and raided the home of Dr. Burckhard Blanke, director of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation's branch in Israel. He was asked about charges that he had made anti-Semitic statements "in a manner that encourages racist acts." This related to polemics Blanke had made against the policy of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Police seized maps and newspaper clippings, assessing these as "information related to military affairs" that were allegedly assigned for being passed on to Palestine terrorists.

The trumped-up affair mirrors the campaign going on in Germany against the Free Democratic Party, under whose auspices the Naumann Foundation operates. FDP chairman Guido Westerwelle is scheduled to visit Israel and meet Sharon, among others, on May 28. German leading figures from other parties have also been targeted, amidst general propaganda alleging that "Europe is becoming anti-Semitic" because of widespread opposition to the Sharon government's invasions of Palestinian territories.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer phoned his Israeli colleague Shimon Peres on May 21, demanding a clarification on the incident. Peres called back on May 22 and told Fischer that the Israeli police had been "mistaken," that it had turned out that none of the charges brought against Blanke could be "substantiated."

Argentina Getting Sick and Malnourished

As a result of growing poverty and hunger, thanks to International Monetary Fund (IMF) demands and policies, tuberculosis is on the rise in Argentina. Former Health Minister Aldo Neri warned that "increasingly efficient medical tools are meaningless in the face of ever-increasing poverty and misery."

A study by the government of Buenos Aires province for 2000, the last year for which statistics are available, showed a "notable increase" in TB among youth and people 65 or older, beginning particularly in the middle of the 1990s—the heyday of free-market lunacy. Of the 11,767 new cases reported in 2000, 45.2% of them were in the province of Buenos Aires.

A recent report on malnutrition published by *Página 12* has shaken the country. The daily reported on 1,320 confirmed cases of malnutrition among children, in the southern part of Tucuman province alone. Provincial Health Ministry official Dr. Sergio Vargas described the situation as a "social debacle," aggravated by lack of funding from the provincial government, and little help from the federal government. Of 15,000 kilos of milk needed monthly, he said the province receives only 3,000 kilos from the federal government.

The government's slavish obedience to the IMF will exacerbate this situation. The government statistical agency, INDEC, just reported that the price of the monthly market basket of essential food items *increased* by 42.4% in the first quarter of this year, and so far in May, has risen another 3.7%!

Pope, 82, Prepares New Encyclical

Pope John Paul II, just 82, is preparing a new encyclical document. Showing that the *sede vacante* (empty chair, referring to gossip that the Holy Father might resign, for health reasons) possibility is quite remote, and that currently in the Vatican there is quite definitely a *sede occupata*, Italian television RAI 2 on May 18 revealed that the Pope is working on a new encyclical, on the subject of the Eucharist, to be issued within this year.

On May 18, the Pope's 82nd birthday was celebrated with ceremonies at the Vatican, which filled in a normal working day for Karol Wojtyła. The Pope has cancelled his usual mountain vacation, in order to prepare carefully his next mission to World

Youth Day in Canada, and to Mexico, his collaborators report. In the two weeks preceding the mission in late July, he will hold meetings with local bishops, discuss the issues with them and study the files. The Pope has also carefully prepared his trip to Bulgaria, starting on May 23, after a visit to Azerbaijan. Since he wants to personally read his speech in Bulgarian, he has taken lessons to perfect his pronunciation.

Among those who congratulated the Pope on his birthday, the Grand Mufti of Syria remarked, "Who says he is old? I am 87 and he is only 82. He is young."

Closing Palestine Territories Is Disaster

The Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* on May 19 published a report based largely on interviews with Nigel Roberts, one of two World Bank officials who prepared a report on the economic conditions in the Palestinian territories since the Intifada began in September 2000. (Ironically, a copy of the report was the only document left in the office of Ataf Alaune, the director general of the Palestinian Finance Ministry, when the Israeli Army pulled out of Ramallah on April 21. Everything else, including computer hard drives and his entire library, were taken.)

Roberts said that aside from the physical damage caused by the Israeli military operations, the economic damage caused by Israeli restrictions on freedom of movement of people and goods amounts to about \$2.4 billion. The loss of jobs inside Israel has meant a drop in income for Palestinians, which has caused a further drop in economic activity inside the territories. Roberts estimates that since the end of the April military operations, three-quarters of the Palestinian population lives on less than \$2 per day. Making the situation even worse, is Israel's refusal to turn over taxes it collected on goods imported into the P.A. from Israel. Roberts estimates that Israel now owes the P.A. about \$500 million, and he emphasizes that that money does not belong to Israel.

Roberts expressed hope for the action

MILITARIES of Thailand and Myanmar have agreed to cooperate to crush the drug armies on their border. The *Bangkok Post* reported thousands of Myanmar Army troops have been deployed along their northern border for a “showdown” with the United Wa State Army, which controls much of the opium and amphetamine trade through Thailand. Meanwhile, several thousand Thai troops have been conducting an exercise along the border, the largest ever. The *Bangkok Nation* reported that the Thai Army has been given a green light from Myanmar to cross the border if necessary.

MORDECHAI VANUNU has filed a court appeal to have the minutes of his 1998 trial in Israel made public. Vanunu, who exposed the Israeli nuclear program by providing photographs to British newspapers, has been in prison on an 18-year sentence for treason. The CIA and Pentagon say that Israel, which has never signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, has between 200 and 400 enhanced radiation and hydrogen weapons.

WARNINGS were ignored by the United States, reported John K. Cooley, author of *Unholy Wars*, about the U.S. training of the Afghani terrorists, in an article in the May 21 *International Herald Tribune*. The Jordanian General Intelligence Division (GID) sent *very specific* warnings through the CIA in Amman, Jordan. Says Cooley, “The text stated clearly that a major attack was planned inside the continental U.S. It said aircraft would be used.” It even gave a code name—“The Big Wedding.” He says the United States should learn to heed “friendly Arab intelligence services.”

LAROCHE’S analysis of Sept. 11, widely supported in the Arab world, was fully covered in the April issue of a major Saudi publication, *Al Aalem (The Scientist)*. The magazine covered Muriel Mirak-Weissbach’s January presentation at Cairo University.

plan developed by the World Bank to revive the Palestinian economy, but it depends on Israel lifting the siege; all signs show that they intend to tighten it. He told *Ha’aretz*, “Militarily, I have no opinion on the effectiveness of the closures,” he said. “But strategically, it is clear they are creating an atmosphere that is not conducive to the security of Israel.”

Peru Backs Off Pro-Terrorist Move

A storm of anger has swept Peru, after the Attorney General issued arrest warrants against 12 military heroes who helped rescue the MRTA’s hostages in 1997. Seventy-two hostages held captive for 126 days in the Japanese Ambassador’s residence in Lima by 14 heavily armed narco-terrorists of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), were rescued on April 22, 1997, in a spectacularly successful assault by 140 Peruvian commandos, lasting a total of 15 minutes, from start to finish. Two officers gave their lives protecting hostages whom the MRTA sought to kill as the commandos entered the residence. All of the hostages survived, but one, wounded by the MRTA, who died on the operating table later. “Operation Chavin de Huantar,” as the rescue was known, not only saved those individual lives, but the nation of Peru itself, by effectively ending over 15 years of war by the MRTA terrorists. In 1998, then U.S. Southern Command chief Gen. Charles Wilhelm called the rescue “one of the few resounding victories against world terrorism in the last 20 or 30 years.”

Attorney General Nelly Calderón issued arrest orders on May 15, charging 12 officers with summarily executing several MRTA terrorists, during the split-second raid! The openly stated intention of those involved, is to charge ousted President Alberto Fujimori with genocide, for having allegedly ordered the MRTA “executed.”

The arrest warrants caused such an uproar—related to the expressed popular rage over government economic policies—that

Toledo and several cabinet ministers have publicly declared that the government did not initiate them. Then on May 20, Justice Minister Fernando Olivera called on the Attorney General to revoke the warrants, as based on clearly suspect sources.

Dutch Election Shows Effect of Assassination

The ruling Labor Party and its coalition partners, the “liberal” PvdA and the “centrist” D66 parties, all lost considerable ground in the May 15 elections in the Netherlands.

The “conservative” Christian Democrats came in first, reportedly with 41 seats. The year-old, anti-immigrant Pym Fortuyn List (LPF) got 24 seats, essentially equalling the outgoing government parties, and may get a place in a potentially unstable new coalition government.

The leader of the party, Pym Fortuyn, was murdered only a few days before the election. This brought out mass funeral processions and an outpouring of public emotion for this 42-year-old overt homosexual and racist, and the assassination obviously had a sharp effect in propelling his List into a probable government participation. The media compared the mourning scenes to the British grieving for Princess Diana.

“Across Europe, the Far Right Risis,” under which headline, the *Christian Science Monitor* typifies hype that equates European opposition to an Anglo-American Clash of Civilizations war with the rise of right-wing “spoiler” parties, such as France’s National Front. The *Monitor* claimed, “Today’s Dutch elections are the latest evidence of Europeans looking right on crime and immigration.” Thrown together in its story are Jean-Marie Le Pen’s more established French party; Germany’s tiny National Democratic Party, recently exposed as a creation of the pre-unification East and West German secret services; ethnic separatist parties such as Belgium’s Vlaams Blok; and Britain’s National Party, which despite big press play has only won a single council seat in a small city.